

Message Text

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46/13

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FRB-01 SP-02 AID-05 EB-04 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 XMB-02 COME-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /071 W
----- 022400

R 170708Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6163

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1828

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT) -- PARAGRAPH 3.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, IS, US, JO

SUBJ: BRANCH OFFICE OF U.S. BANK IN RAMALLAH

REF: STATE 221491

1. WE HAVE LITTLE TO ADD TO OUR COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS OCCASION,
WHEN PROPOSAL FIRST WAS MADE (JERUSALEM 599, JUNE 5, 1974).
(SINCE THAT TIME, WE HAVE NOTED THAT ANNUITY CHECKS TO AMERICANS
ARE ALREADY BEING DRAWN ON CHICAGO EXCHANGE BANK.)

2. WE BELIEVE BANK WOULD BE WELCOMED BY ARABS IN RAMALLAH
AREA IN POST-OCTOBER WAS ATMOSPHERE, AND IF THERE WERE NO TRACES
OF ASSOCIATION WITH ISRAELI BRANCHES ON SAME BANK AMERICAN BANK
OPENING ON WEST BANK MIGHT WELL BE SEEN AS EVIDENCE OF NEW
AMERICAN INTEREST IN THE AREA AND IN PALESTINIANS GENERALLY. IF,
HOWEVER, IT APPEARED THAT OPENING AMOUNTED TO EXTENSION OF
ISRAELI BRANCH OF BANK, POLITICAL EFFECTS COULD BY SAME TOKEN BE
NEGATIVE.

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3. WE ARE SKEPTICAL HOWEVER THAT LARGER POLITICAL CONTEXT CAN

BE IGNORED QUITE SO CAVALIERLY AS NABULSI SUGGESTED. WHOLE
BANKING ISSUE HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN RELATIONSHIPS OF
JORDAN AND ISRAEL TO WEST BANK. WERE THESE RELATIONSHIPS NOW FURTHER
SENSITIZED BY POSSIBILITY OF SETTLEMENT, OPENING OF THIS U.S.
BANK COULD WELL CAUSE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND UNPREDICTABLE
COMPLICATIONS EVEN IF WEST BANKERS THEMSELVES WERE CONTENT WITH
IT.
DAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BANK BRANCHES, COMMERCIAL BANKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JERUSA01828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740295-0878
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741040/aaaabhrt.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 221491
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRANCH OFFICE OF U.S. BANK IN RAMALLAH
TAGS: EFIN, IS, US, JO, EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005